

Claims:

1. A process for preparing and storing moist glass-making batch which comprises incorporating a surfactant in moist batch whereby, on storage of the batch at a temperature below 30°C, the batch remains free flowing without setting.
2. A process for preparing moist glass-making batch which comprises incorporating a surfactant in the moist batch whereby, on preheating the batch at or above 100°C before supply to a glass melting furnace, the batch remains free flowing without setting.
3. A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the batch is pre-heated to a temperature of at least 150°C before supply to the glass melting furnace.
4. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the moist batch includes between 2 % and 10 % free water.
5. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the moist batch includes a water-soluble component.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein the water-soluble component is soda ash.
7. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the surfactant is chosen from a group including anionic, cationic, non-ionic and zwitterionic surfactants.
8. A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the surfactant is anionic.
9. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the anionic surfactant is a soluble soap.
10. A process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the soluble soap is a carboxylate having a carbon chain length of between C4 and C22 inclusive.

11. A process as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the soluble soap includes a Group I, II or III counter-ion.
12. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the surfactant is incorporated into the batch in an amount from 0.0001 % to 5 % of the weight of the batch.
13. A process as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the surfactant is incorporated into the batch as the batch ingredients are mixed.
14. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the moist batch is stored for at least 24 hours.